

Committee on Ways and Means

New Medicare Preventive Benefits

- The *Deficit Reduction Act* (DRA) continues the important expansion of preventive care under Medicare.
- It adds coverage of screening for abdominal aortic aneurysms (AAA) for beneficiaries at risk for AAA. AAA accounts for about 9,000 deaths annually in the US, although it is highly treatable and curable when detected early.
- The DRA also improves patient access to screening for colorectal cancer by waiving one more barrier - the Part B deductible - for this service. Colorectal cancer is the second leading cause of cancer deaths in the U.S. Mortality associated with colorectal cancer can be reduced through early diagnosis and treatment.
- The Part B deductible is also waived for AAA screening.